

THE GROWTH OF THE BRONX

Population Has Increased 2,100 Per Cent. Since 1874.

The great population growth of the Bronx dates from the year 1874, when all the territory west of the Bronx River, "the north side," was added to New York County and thus became part of the city. The area acquired consisted of some 12,300 acres, containing about fifty sparsely settled villages, with a population of approximately 33,000. In 1890, those figures, as the result of improved transit conditions (including especially the operation of the New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad's Harlem River branch, and the Harlem Railroad), had increased to 88,000. The "Huckleberry Road," horse cars, was replaced by the first trolley lines of the Union Railway Company in 1892.

In 1895, additional land was acquired from Westchester County and added to the city, comprising a little more than 14,500 acres east of the Bronx River, known as "The Annexed District," giving a total area to the Bronx of about 26,800 acres, or approximately forty-two square miles, with a population of about 100,000. In the five years between 1895 and 1900 the population figures reached the total of 201,000. By 1910 the 1900 figures were doubled, the population in that year being 431,000.

The determining factors in this growth between 1895 and 1910 were without doubt the extension of the Third Avenue "L" to Tremont, and then to Fordham, the operation of the Lenox Avenue subway to West Farms, and the operation of the New York, Westchester & Boston Railway, which transit arteries opened up large sections to more extensive settlement.

In 1915 the Bronx population had reached the 631,000 mark. In the past year it was approximately 850,000, with the best of prospects that the end of 1920 will find the population of the Bronx well beyond the 900,000 mark. The opening of the Jerome Avenue extension of the Lexington Avenue subway of the White Plains Avenue extension of the old subway, and of the Hunt's Point Branch of the Lexington Avenue subway, have been potent determining factors in the more recent population strides.

With the completion of the Webster Avenue extension to 241st Street and the Pelham Bay Park extension via Westchester Avenue the Westchester, Throgs Neck and Unionport sections will be within forty minutes of City Hall.

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